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WHERE TO HANG HIM

With those who would add the weight of Mr. Bryan's avowal to the burden of the traditional "sour apple tree" we disagree. We must protest that the only appropriate place and way to hang him is on the back stairs wall of the State Department's official suite, and in effigy.

That portrait, faithfully portraying the Commoner sort of vacuity, now about to be hung should look down forever upon the spot where the peerless meddler whispered in the ear of Dumba that all our diplomatic stiff talk was merely for public consumption and that what the Administration was actually determined on was peace at any price—especially honor.

The present time, when the country has been plunged into war, in fact if not in name, as the result of the misinformation so sedulously spread by Bryan and his disciples, is also most appropriate for hanging his picture on the scene of his crime. Let there be no delay on the part of the hanging committee.

RITTER UND ZIMMERMANN

A characteristic detail is to be noted in the incident (now closed) of the seemingly culpable attitude of Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister, toward the United States in favor of Germany. After Dr. Ritter had made his explanation to Secretary Lansing the latter authorized a statement exonerating Dr. Ritter from improper behavior.

But hark to the bawl from Dr. Ritter's principal, Dr. Zimmermann, the German foreign minister, declares that Dr. Ritter was at fault in being the source of momentary trouble between the United States and the German government—that government so famous for its high-minded faith and trustworthy behavior; this on the very eve of the disclosure of Germany's amazing attempt to seduce Japan and Mexico into treacherous collusion with the Kaiser's tottering cause.

It is hard work, had work, any attempt to "represent" Germany. For no decent individual or government can really understand Germany's unnatural attitude, much less make it intelligible to any less clouded intelligence.

MORE PRO-GERMAN THAN ZIMMERMANN

When the Zimmermann note was given to the world, the evidences of its authenticity was overwhelming. Followed in the Senate the statement by Senator Swanson that the President had told him it was authentic and was in the possession of the State Department. Nevertheless there was a long debate in the Senate over a resolution of Senator Lodge asking the President to send his opinion to the Senate concerning the authenticity of the note; Stone and O'Gorman wanted also to know whether the note came into our hands through the agency of some belligerent government. In the course of the debate, several Senators suggested the possibility of a vergery with the connivance of Great Britain. No need to name them now, they must feel mortified at the confession from German sources, as published today, that the note was sent and the plot was devised to draw friendly nations into war with the United States at the very moment when Germany was professing exalted friendship.

There is a comical side to the situation in Germany's anxiety to learn of this Government got possession of the note. Germany has so long ridden herself on the efficiency of her air-fung spy system, and has been so contemptuous of the innocence and ruliability of the United States, that it just came with a shock to her mind that we have some secret service methods ourselves. The purloiner of the chickens acknowledged his guilt. What bothered him was the question, Where the white folks got their information.

SPORTS

It is reported that a motion has been reported in the Dutch Parliament to censure Queen Wilhelmina because she went skating at Leeuwarden two days after Germany's submarine war was proclaimed. This seems about as silly a resolution as could be imagined; the only excuse is that all Holland is subject to hysteria just now, and for the best of reasons—mortal terror of invasion. But probably the action is a bit of German spy work.

As to the Queen's seeking recreation by a visit to the skating carnival, it is surely the Queen's privilege to make such a public gesture of unconcern if she can; that she has done so may be taken as evidence that she does not feel her country

to be in imminent danger of attack. Such action must be taken as an intentional bit of practical diplomacy. President Wilson always goes golfing when public matters press to an extraordinary degree; he gets the practical result of physical rehabilitation and the moral advantage of exhibiting coolness in the very face of pressing trouble. Sometimes he goes to get his eyeglasses mended, but usually his relaxation is directly concerned with sport.

The Dutch will do well to cheer up and uphold their plucky Queen instead of attempting to censure her. That were to be rude to a great lady, disrespectful to a responsible sovereign, and timid in a degree unworthy the great Dutch tradition.

REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE

The death of Michael F. Conry, Democratic Congressman from New York, elected to succeed himself, makes it more probable than ever that the Republicans will organize the next House, the votes now standing, Republicans, 215; Democrats, 214; Independents, 5. Mr. Conry's successor may not be elected until November. If a special election were called it could not be held for thirty days, and an extra session may be called at any time. It is believed that two of the independents will vote with the Democrats and two with the Republicans, the Progressive-Protectionist from the Louisiana sugar district being the doubtful one.

If the extra session is delayed, the matter may be said to be in the hands of Providence. The side with the fewest deaths will win. The House Republicans have cleared the air to some extent by the agreement to make Mann Speaker, but to take from him the power of appointing the committees. This will be done by a committee of fifteen, elected by the Republican membership, just as the Democratic majority of the Ways and Means Committee, now makes assignments. The election of Lenroot as floor leader, and the appointment of a steering committee of seven to co-operate with the steering committee of the Senate are parts of the same plan. This will make Lenroot a far more powerful figure than Mann. The "dehorned Speakership" at which the Republicans have jeered will be more welcome to them than they could have imagined, considering the fact that Mann is to be elected. Undoubtedly he will make a good parliamentary presiding officer.

If the seniority rule is followed in the appointment of the chairmen of the important committees, there will be the same degree of embarrassment to the Republicans as the Democrats have experienced, in cases where length of service does not coincide with superior ability. The best way out of this difficulty would be the plan of having the committees, when appointed, elect their own chairmen. That would give the needed combination of experience and capability. It is almost unthinkable that Cooper of Wisconsin for example, with his mushy pro-German pacifism, should be made chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Other ranking Republican members of the committees who would become chairmen under the seniority rule would be Haugen of Iowa, Agriculture; Hayes of California, Banking and Currency; Hinds of Maine, Census; Cary of Wisconsin, District of Columbia; Caleb Powers of Kentucky, Education; Esch of Wisconsin, Interstate Commerce; Greene of Massachusetts, Merchant Marine; Kahn of California, Military Affairs; Butler of Pennsylvania, Naval Affairs; Steenerson of Minnesota, Postoffice; Fordney of Michigan, Ways and Means, and Gillett of Massachusetts, Appropriations.

In a time of war, it should make little difference who organizes the House. The only rivalry should be that of patriotic endeavor to serve one's country best.

AS TO AN EXTRA SESSION

Speaker Clark has given notice that he will recognize no member of the House to take up anything but appropriation bills and conference reports. The Senate has still to consider the army bill, the sundry civil, and the general deficiency bills, and the notice that Senator La Follette would talk at length on the ship arming bill indicates a loss of time that might be otherwise available to the Senate on the big supply measures. An extra session can only be avoided now by unanimous consent.

But the revenue act has passed and the navy bill appropriations will be made immediately available. The failure of the supply measures or any of them to pass will make an extra session unavoidable, but as the appropriations are not needed until July 1, it may not be deemed advisable to call the extra session at once.

The Tennessee legislature has a custom of splitting its regular session with a month's recess, so that the members can go home and talk to the folks about the bills that are being considered. It is not a bad idea.

When members of Congress who have been morally afraid of the German-American vote go back home for a while, they may return with a

new view of American patriotism and its demands upon them. A Senator and some of the Representatives from Wisconsin might thereby see a great light. A Senator and some of the Representatives from Missouri might also be shown. The American people have been more than patient with the conscientious pacifists. But when pacifism and pro-Germanism are conjoined in the Congressmen from States with a large German-American electorate, patience is turned into wrathful disgust.

PATRIOTISM IN BUSINESS

Here is a creed of patriotism worthy to have rung through the halls of Congress in its greatest days, or to have been uttered in the council that formed the Government of the United States:

Patriotism, however, is not a mere sentiment. It is not wholly of the heart; it must be born of the principle of sacrifice of self for the good of country, of humanity and of God. Patriotism must be a controlling conviction, and in this time of trouble if the soul and conscience of the American people do not realize that behind the issues that confront us there is a principle of human rights, a principle upon which the existence of free government depends, upon which the future of this great but untried democracy also depends, then the American people fail to realize the situation at the moment.

It was not in the House of Representatives or in the Senate that these words were uttered, however. They were spoken by Chairman William C. Breed, of the members' council of the New York Merchants' Association, at a patriotic meeting held by that body. But they would bear thoughtful reading by the members of a Congress in which it is much more common to hear speeches upbraiding the commercialism of business than it is to hear ringing expressions of patriotism in the course of debate.

When the country is brought face to face with an issue as grave as the present the business man might turn to the politician who has been bailing him and try to shoulder off all the responsibility. But he does not, although no sane business man would desire war if peace with honor and justice were possible. It is one of the reassuring signs of American vitality that the country's business men, even those like Henry Ford, who are extreme in their opposition to war, stand ready to do their bit if war it must be.

WHAT ARE FORTS FOR?

The tendency to use the Coast Artillery Corps for everything on earth except the purpose for which it was created, namely, the manning of the seacoast fortifications, appears to be growing. The garrisons were reduced some time ago to furnish men for border duty. No sooner do these special details get home than the rumor emanates that other Coast Artillery details will be placed on board our merchantmen, when they are finally armed, as gun pointers. It is true that there appears to be no present danger of bombardment for any of our ports. But nevertheless the Coast Artillery Corps should not be disorganized or weakened to provide emergency naval gunners; it is a highly specialized branch of the national defense system that should be kept at all times ready for the particular work for which it was created. It would be as wrongheaded now not to keep the ports manned as it would have been in the first place not to have built them.

Instead of being depleted the Coast Artillery Corps should be recruited up to its full authorized strength of 21,423 men, of which it now falls short 2,675.

If the expenditures of \$10,000,000 for army aviation will produce only 120 aviators, ready at all times for service, there is all the more reason why some competent authority should "go after the regular army with a sandbag," as Major General Wood says, and reorganize it whether or not Congress votes universal military training.

The vision of Cooper of Wisconsin as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs is one of the things that makes the President hesitate about calling an extra session with the Republicans organizing the House. On the other hand, there is Senator Stone.

If Mr. Lea Darcy, of Australia, cannot meet Dillon in New York city he can still find plenty of fighters in the German trenches ready to take him on.

One of the most painful spectacles of the present trying times is the anguish of the pacifist who is endeavoring to wriggle off the hot shovel before it becomes too red hot.

Some Congressmen talk as if the present international situation was designed for the sole purpose of embarrassing them politically.

Jim Mann should study the coast line of France if he wants to know where we shall land if the country goes into the war.

The stupidity of the Zimmermann note was prima facie evidence of its authenticity.

Shall the skull and crossbones rule the seas?

The sinking of that Peruvian bark will not relieve Germany of the chills.

Don Marquis' Column

Ballade of a Sturdy Gentleman.

These modern decadents, alas!

Their languor fills us with dismay.

Inspired is this weary class,

Their passions find them easy prey.

Their simple cravings, shall we say,

Last but a second and then die.

But back in Camden town, N. J.,

Walt Whitman was a virile guy.

The female Camden folk en masse

Fell for the hero of our play.

The heart of every Jersey lass

Was old Walt Whitman's—his to

away.

To hold a while and give away

Without a murmur or a sigh.

The character we here portray,

Walt Whitman, was a virile guy.

Where once was gold we now find

brass.

The years have shown a marked

decay.

What decadence has come to pass,

An Rice would say, across the fray!

Walt Whitman wrote the free verse

lay.

And here's the wherefore, how and

why.

His stuff will live and live for aye—

Walt Whitman was a virile guy.

—Freckles.

—E. J. M.

W. J. Bryan says that the "moment

war is declared he will be as patriotic

as anyone, and will die for his country

if necessary. But right up to the

moment that war is declared, he says,

he will work against war.

We believe, ourselves, in Bryan's love

for his country.

But his blind stubbornness in blocking

any attempt to put American affairs

on a proper footing (in so far as he

is able to obstruct the course of

events) is doing the country more

harm than could ever be remedied by

anything he might do after war has

become an officially recognized fact.

He has allowed himself to be fooled

and used by the enemies of his country,

who have skillfully played upon

his vanity and his obstinacy.

His continued opposition to any adequate

preparation for war, in the face of

assaults upon the lives of his fellow-

citizens and the honor of his country,

has been a large factor in bringing

about the state of weakness and

division in which we now find ourselves.

He is sincere in his pacifism, no

doubt.

Blind men are sincerely blind; they

are not blind because they wish to

have any one by being blind. It is

only when they stubbornly insist on

being leaders, and are able actually

to lead a minority to the embarrassment

of a whole people, that they become

dangerous. One need not question

the excellence of their motives, nor

yet the quality of their courage to

perceive that their leadership is

mischievous.

It is the blind peace-at-any-price

people, forerunners of the country's

weakness, who have brought us to

the verge of war.

If we had listened to the warnings

of the men who have urged adequate

naval and military preparation we

would never have been subjected to

the attacks against American lives

and honor and prosperity which, are,

in effect, war against us. It is these

men who have warned us who are

the real pacifists. They have wanted

to save us from war.

It is important, if we go into war,

that the blame for going in shall be

placed squarely where it belongs—on

the heads of the peace-at-any-price

talkers, who have succeeded in

keeping us so weak that our weakness

has invited attack after attack

from a nation that boasts its might-

fulness and its contempt of law.

A Communication From Archy.

Well boss I have

been down to Washington to see

if I could find out whether

we were going to war or

just going to hell anyhow I

was looking for statesmen to my

surprise I found quite a

number of cockroaches in

charge of affairs cockroach man

cockroach

kitchen need I specify further it

made me ashamed of the cockroach

tribe more anon

archy

The editor of Columbia University's

humorous publication, Jester, says

that President Nicholas Murray

Butler is unpatriotic because he recently

made a speech discussing the Belgian

situation. We quote:

"To discuss the Belgian question at

a time when he (President Wilson)

was doing his utmost to avert war

was unpatriotic and un-American."

We took a hack to the faculty of

Columbia myself recently, but the

outburst on the part of the student

editor makes us feel like apologizing

for it. If Dr. Butler and the mem-

bers of the faculty have much of this

sort of thing to contend with we

wonder that they are not driven to

distraction.

Unpatriotic and un-American to dis-

cuss the Belgian question!

We shall hear next that it is un-

American to discuss the crucifixion of

Christ.

We begin to perceive, for the first

time, wherein lies the claim of Jester

to be a humorous publication.

The Last Journey.

The wind swept sky, the wind swept

sea, and all the world before us,

(God be with the golden dream that

lures us on again.)

With Romance at the tiller and the

screaming gulls in chorus

To welcome us, to welcome us, the

rovers of the main.

The rovers of the seven seas nor mind-

ful of the steering.

Only to be out again upon the open

sea.

Nor wishful to be home at all, nor care

what we were hearing.

Exulting at the freedom with the free-

dom of the free.

But those of us who dreamed our dream

and saw it swiftly winging

Down the road and anywhere, and

watched with brimming eyes.

We steal into the pilot house where

Romance, softly singing,

Tells us oh, so gently, that our port is

paradise.

—Edmund Leamy.

Germany Detains Four U. S. Consuls

as Reprisal Act—Berlin's Incorrect

Belief That German Official Is Held by

America Cause of Step—Headlines.

Who furnishes Germany with these in-

nocent German agents in this country

to see that Berlin gets the truth.

DON MARQUIS.

Commercial Problems As Result of European War

A Non-Technical Explanation of the Big Questions Confronting Business Men At This Time of World's Upheaval.

By SAMUEL WANT.

The attempt of Germany to obtain from this country a reaffirmation of the commercial treaties between the two, as applied to conditions existing during a state of war, indicates the anxiety felt by Germany as to possible further injury to the commerce and property of her noncombatant citizens resident in or dealing with this country, and points with emphasis to the large part played by purely commercial factors in the attitude of nations engaged or about to become engaged in warlike operations.

The treaty of 1785 between this country and Germany, besides providing for the protection of the citizens of the contracting parties in the event of war between them, also deals with the commercial rights of each in the event that the other should become engaged in war with a third party. On this point it is expressly agreed that in the event of such a war the free intercourse and commerce of the citizens of the party remaining neutral, as applied to transportation to and dealings with the belligerent powers, shall not be interrupted. Emphasis is given to this proposition by the further statement in the treaty that "on the contrary, in that case, as in full peace, the vessels of the neutral party may navigate freely to and from ports and on the coasts of the belligerents," this freedom to extend to persons as well as goods so carried or transported, subject, of course, to the right of confiscation as to contraband and the imprisonment of passengers in the military service of the opposing belligerent.

This treaty, as to the point in question, was reaffirmed by the treaty of 1825. It will thus be observed that the situation now confronting the country in its commerce with England and other nations is squarely covered by the solemn obligation of Germany.

WHAT'S ON PROGRAM

Interesting Events of Importance

Scheduled Today.

Dramatization of the Continental Congress,

Carnegie Theatre, 10 F street, near Seventh

northwest, 8 p. m.

Exhibition of motion pictures, American Uni-

versity, 2 M street,

northwest, 8 p. m.

Luncheon and reception, Minnesota Lodge,

Good Templars, Perpetual Building Hall,

Eleventh and E streets northwest, 8 p. m.

Revival, Salvation Army Hall, 829 Pennsylv-

ania avenue northwest, evening.

Federation of American War Veterans, 1011

F street northwest,

Annual dinner, Union College Alumni As-